

portant to the local people and the richest in plant species. It was recommended that these 'kayas' be considered for gazetting as national monuments.

Two sacred sites, Pangani Rocks and Cha Simba Rocks, owned by local farmers, support a rich flora, including the endemic African violet (*Saintpaulia rupicola*). It was suggested that moves be made to interest conservation bodies in purchase of these Jurassic limestone sites of great beauty with deep caves and caverns. Mangea Hill, an important watershed area supporting patches of rich forest flora, was recommended for protection as a reserve. The report stated that Diani Forest and nearby Diani Kaya, the largest single area of forest on coral rag on the Kenya coast, should be made the focus of a local conservation effort. The area is being developed for tourism and this forest is rapidly disappearing.

The report also contained a preliminary 'kaya' plant inventory of about 900 species. Project materials were used by the Botanist in Charge at EAH in her presentation 'The Coastal Forests of Kenya: Conservation Status' to the 1987 Berlin International Botanical Congress.

Future Activities

WWF International has now approved funds to extend this work. A floral inventory for the coast will be produced and assistance given to educational and training programmes. The conservation measures suggested for the 'kayas' and sacred groves will be pursued.

Project 3698

Lewa Downs Ranch, Ngare Sirigoi Rhino Sanctuary

WWF Expenditure 1986/87 — US\$17,288

(Project initiated November 1985)

Project Executant: Ian Craig, Executive Office, Lewa Downs Ltd, Isiolo, Kenya.

Participating Organization: Kenya Wildlife Conservation and Management Department.

Objectives: To establish a breeding herd of black rhinos in the sanctuary with the long-term aim of making the surplus population available for restocking designated wildlife reserves in Kenya at the discretion of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Department.

In response to the precipitous decline in the black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) population in Kenya from an estimated 20,000 in 1970 to about 500 in 1983, the owners of Lewa Downs ranch offered to create a special rhino sanctuary on their land. Lewa Downs, situated some 1500-1800m above sea level, is a ranch of 16,000ha below the Ngare Ndare escarpment southwest of Isiolo. Around 3000 ha have been set aside as a rhino sanctuary and enclosed with a solar-powered electric fence.

Endangered rhino outside national parks and reserves have been captured and translocated into the sanctuary. So far 11 have been moved into Ngare Sirigoi. Three calves have been born. The sanctuary has demonstrated the feasibility of raising rhinos and cattle together, and it has been agreed to extend the reserve by another 2000 ha.

Project 3703

Black Rhino Protection and Conservation

WWF Expenditure 1986/87 — US\$81,285

(Project initiated January 1986)

Black Rhino Protection

Project Executants: C. Francombe, General Manager, Laikipia Ranching Co. Ltd (Ol Ari Nyiro Ranch); in association with the Gallmann Memorial Foundation.

Participating Organizations: Laikipia Ranching Co. Ltd; in association with the Gallmann Memorial Foundation.

Objectives: To protect the rhinos in Laikipia Ranch, Kenya, by supporting patrols as part of a programme to preserve an environment where wildlife and domestic animals can live together.

Black Rhino Conservation

Project Executant: Dr Robert Brett, Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London, UK.

Participating Organizations: Gallmann Memorial Foundation, Nairobi, Kenya; Wildlife Conservation and Management Department, Kenya.

Objectives:

- 1) To determine the status of the black rhino population on Laikipia ranch;
- 2) To study in detail their home range movements and breeding biology and the implications for management of black rhino in fenced sanctuaries;
- 3) To develop reliable ground census techniques.

Over the past decade, a number of wild animal species in Africa have been decimated by human activities. The rhino has undoubtedly suffered the most due to human greed for rhino horn. However, Laikipia Ranching Co. Ltd, also known as Ol Ari Nyiro Ranch, is one of the few places where the rhino, along with other species, is able to live at peace in the wild.

The 400 sq km ranch, situated in the semi-arid northern ranching land of Kenya, occupies an area on the eastern edge of the Rift Valley escarpment overlooking Lake Baringo. The ranch has an indigenous population of black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) and forms an ideal habitat for many other wild animal species such as elephant, Cape buffalo, greater kudu, eland, giraffe, and impala, and predators such as lion, leopard, cheetah, hyaena and Cape hunting dogs.

The more than 50 black rhinos form one of the largest natural groups left of free-ranging indigenous wild rhino. There are also more than 300 elephants and over 100 leopards.